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DE RUEHTC #0705 3231538  
ZNY CCAA ZZH  
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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3495  
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHSQ/AMEMBASSY SKOPJE PRIORITY 0556

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 000705

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/18/2019  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [NL](#) [MK](#) [EU](#)  
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/MACEDONIA: SUPPORTING EU ACCESSION  
NEGOTIATIONS, CONCERN ABOUT NAME DISPUTE

REF: SECSTATE 117721

Classified By: Econ Unit Chief Shawn Gray for reasons 1.4(b,d)

[¶1.](#) (U) The Dutch support beginning EU accession negotiations with Macedonia. Post delivered reftel points to Dominique Kuhling, head of the EU enlargement division at the Dutch MFA, on November 19. Kuhling said the Netherlands was "quite pleased" with Macedonia's progress on meeting the eight benchmarks set by the EU in 2008. Accordingly, the Netherlands will support the European Commission's recommendation to begin negotiations. Kuhling added that FM Verhagen had a "smooth ride" in parliament during discussions of Macedonia's application to the EU, so he had political support for the Netherlands' new position.

[¶2.](#) (C) Kuhling was not/not optimistic about a prompt resolution of the name dispute between Greece and Macedonia. Despite optimism after the Greek elections, positions on both sides appear to be hardening. Kuhling had heard a rumor that Greece was circulating an eight-point plan to resolve the name issue, and that the plan would be difficult for Macedonia to accept.

[¶3.](#) (C) Ambassador Dimitrov, Macedonia's representative to the Netherlands, told Ambassador Levin on November 17 that he also was not/not optimistic about resolving the name dispute after reading a cable report from his colleagues in New York regarding meetings with the Greeks the previous week.  
GALLAGHER